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Wednesday, May 7, 2014 www.metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYork

Instructive.

Brooklyn resident Raj Sidhu has created a board game to help kids learn computer programming concepts. **Prototype.** He just launched a Kickstarter campaign to crowdfund the manufacturing of "Code Monkey Island." PAGE 02



CODE MONKEYS

Raj Sidhu plays "Code Monkey Island," a board game he created to help kids learn how to code. / AARON ADLER, METRO

City to move remains of unidentified 9/11 victims

PAGE 02

Nets get humiliated in Game 1 loss to Heat

PAGE 27

How Emma Stone got schooled by 'Spider-Man'

PAGE 14



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1 NEWS

Quoted

"I was surrounded by love, but I always felt less-than, out-of-place, restless, irritable, and discontent."

Chiara de Blasio, first daughter of New York, in an article that she wrote about depression and addiction for xolane.



Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us?

1 "Veep" recap: Season 3, Episode 5, "Fishing"

2 Eric LeGrand says Rutgers offered, rescinded graduation speech

3 Who broke the fashion rules at the Met Gala?

Game would teach basics of coding

Child's play. A Brooklyn programmer is raising funds to develop a new game called Code Monkey Island.

Kids can't just monkey around with this board game.

Code Monkey Island, developed by Brooklyn-based designer Raj Sidhu, helps teach children 8 and older basic programming concepts, from control and data structures to Boolean logic.

"It's becoming such a valuable skill to have for basically anybody in any industry," the 23-year-old Williamsburg resident said.

Hoping to make programming "child's play" for the next generation, Sidhu launched a Kickstarter campaign on Wednesday to crowdfund the initial manufacturing of Code Monkey Island.

The game is straightforward. Players move a tribe of monkeys around an island using cards with conditional statements, such as "For each monkey NOT on a rock, move 3 spaces."

"For children it's a pretty important logical hurdle to leap," Sidhu said. Boolean logic — essentially determining whether something is true or false — is incredibly important for programmers, he said.



Raj Sidhu, 23, shows how the board game Code Monkey Island would work. / AARON ADLER, METRO

New tools

"Being able to sort of manipulate the world around you and understand how the tools that you're using work is just as important as reading and writing and basic math skills."

Sidhu

Sidhu, who works at a New York startup, began developing the game in January and has already put together a Code Monkey Island prototype, complete with hand-painted monkey pieces made with a 3D printer.

A representative at WinGo Games said that the company is willing to manufacture Code Mon-

key Island once enough funds are raised. Through the Kickstarter campaign, Sidhu aims to have a thousand games made.

After playing Code Monkey Island with his adult friends, Sidhu arranged for a handful of elementary students to play the game at Little Red School House in Greenwich Village last month.

Kickstarter

For more details on the game, visit the Code Monkey Island Kickstarter campaign at kck.st/1n3tVC9.

In a video on the game's Kickstarter, the children are seen excitedly playing and describing rules in detail.

"It's much different when a kid is playing it," Sidhu said. "They have a lot more thoughts."

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Bump

City considers rent hike for some tenants

Tenants in rent-regulated apartments might catch a break this year as the board responsible for determining hikes considers a freeze or more likely, a small hike in their rents.

The city's Rent Guideline Board floated the idea of raising one-year leases by between 0 percent and 3 percent.

Residents with two-year leases might see a 0.5 to 4.5 percent jump. Eight board members voted in favor of the proposal, one against.

The vote on Monday was preliminary — the board plans to host public hearings across the city where tenants can offer testimony. The final decision won't be made until June 23.

New York has about 1 million rent-stabilized apartments, which fall under the board's purview.

Last year, the board upped rent by 4 percent for one-year lease renewals and up to 7.75 percent for two-year leases.

CHESTER JESUS SORIA



Rent-controlled tenants may get a small rent hike. GETTY IMAGES

Memorial. Unidentified remains of 9/11 victims to be transferred

The unidentified remains of victims from the 9/11 attacks will soon be transferred to a repository in a space 70 feet below ground level between the Twin Towers stood, city officials said.

Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Lilliam Barrios-Paoli informed families of 9/11 victims on Saturday

that the remains would be moved to a private section of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum May 10, giving loved ones one week's notice before the transfer.

Barrios-Paoli told families that the city remained committed to continue to identify "all those who lost their lives on that tragic day."

The remains have been held at the Office of Chief Medical Examiner's labs in Manhattan's Gramercy section.

Families will be able to request private access to the repository's "reflection room" as soon as the National September 11 Memorial & Museum opens to the public May 21. CHESTER JESUS SORIA



The National September 11 Memorial & Museum will open May 21. / AARON ADLER, METRO

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NEW YORK

4



The F train had the most alerts in 2013, according to the report. / AARON ADLER, METRO

Delay alerts to subway riders increase: Report

Warning.

Electronic alerts to straphangers saw a 35 percent spike in two years, advocates said.

An increase in electronic alerts notifying subway riders about delay-causing incidents signals that service is worsening, a transit advocacy group said Tuesday.

The number of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority alerts, issued to more than 90,000 subway subscribers, increased 35 percent from 2011 to 2013, according to a Strap-

hangers Campaign report.

"The increase in alerts is a troubling sign that subway service is deteriorating," said Gene Russianoff, staff attorney for the group.

Email and text alerts are issued whenever incidents might impact service by eight minutes or more, the Straphangers Campaign said.

Leaving out "uncontrollable" incidents like police activity, the group found that 3,998 incident alerts for 20 subway lines were issued last year.

The leading cause of those incidents was mechanical. The F train had the most alerts issued.

Spokesman Kevin Ortiz said the MTA's own wait-

Alert

"The increase in alerts is a troubling sign that subway service is deteriorating."

Russianoff

assessment metric, which includes uncontrollable incidents and measures wait time, is more comprehensive.

"Since 2011, the amount of time customers have had to wait for a train throughout the system has remained flat," Ortiz said.

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Outdoors. Brooklyn Bridge Park releases lineup of summer films

The Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy announced the lineup for "Movies With A View," its outdoor summer film series on Tuesday.

This year's selections features an animal theme and showcase the first outside screening of campy sci-fi flick "Sharknado." The films start on July 10 and take place on the Harborview Lawn at Pier 1. The weekly series runs through Aug. 28.

"We are looking



A screening from the series
GETTY IMAGES

forward to audiences being terrified along with Tippi Hendren in 'The Birds,' laughing with the

Marx Brothers in 'Duck Soup' and heating up with Elizabeth Taylor and Paul Newman in 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof,' all while soaking in the best views in the city," said Hilary Tholen, chair of the Conservancy's Volunteer Film Committee.

DJs from Brooklyn Radio will spin music at 6 p.m. and the free features begins at sundown. Short films curated by BAMcinematek will be screened beforehand. **ALLEN HOUSTON**

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World Trade Center BASE jumpers plead not guilty in court

Free falling. The men's attorney said the punishment was too harsh.

The men behind last year's BASE jump off of 1 World Trade Center pleaded not guilty in a Manhattan court on Tuesday.

Earlier this year, Marko Markovich, 27, Andrew Rossig, 33, Kyle Hartwell, 29, and James Brady, 32, were charged with burglary, reckless endangerment and jumping from a structure.

Soon after the hearing, their attorney described the charges as incommensurate with their crime, as they face up to seven years in prison on the burglary charge alone.

"These felony charges



1 World Trade Center
GETTY IMAGES

are a significant stretch of the law to punish these guys more significantly for political reasons," attorney Timothy Parlatore said, referring to the criticism of security measures at 1 WTC.

Parlatore said he hoped prosecutors would lessen the charge to a misdemeanor and argued that no similar arrests he is aware of have ever included such a steep charge.

Authorities searched for the group behind the stunt in the early morning hours of Sept. 30 but didn't catch them until March 24, after the men released video of their feat.

Video of the jump taken from helmet cameras shows Markovich, Rossig, and Brady atop the building and gliding more than 1,300 feet to the ground. Hartwell allegedly was on the ground as a lookout.

The group released a second video of the jump on Monday ahead of the trial, asking viewers to donate to their legal defense, as well as for "to effectuate future legislative change to legalize BASE jumping."

The men are expected in court again on June 24.

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Damages. Woman sues NYPD over raids seeking dead husband

A New York woman has sued the city police department, claiming that officers have raided her home four times in the past year trying to arrest her long-dead husband.

The raids continued even after the woman, Karen Fennell, posted a death certificate over her front door showing that her husband, James Jordan, died in March 2006, according to papers that were filed in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn.

"Because of the constant assault and harassment by defendant officers ... the plaintiffs are now terrified to live in their own home," the lawsuit, which was filed last Friday, said.

The second plaintiff is Jordan's son, James Jordan Jr.

The home was most recently raided just last

Case specifics

The suit names the city and 20 unnamed police officers as defendants.

- It charges officials with using excessive force, racial profiling, fabricating evidence and unlawful stop and frisk.

month, said Fennell's attorney, Ugochukwu Uzoh.

A New York City Law Department spokeswoman declined to comment on the specifics of the suit, saying in an email, "We will review the allegations in the complaint."

Fennell is seeking unspecified compensatory and punitive damages from the city. **REUTERS**



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East Village

Man accused of driving while high faces murder charge

A Queens man accused of driving into an East Village bodega while high on drugs last summer has been charged with murder, prosecutors said on Tuesday.

Shaun Martin, 33, allegedly jumped a curb in June, plowing through several objects before crashing into the bodega and injuring three workers, the Manhattan District Attorney said. One of the workers has since died.

Authorities said Martin was high on PCP and methamphetamine at the time. He has been charged with second-degree murder and 14 other offenses.

Martin's attorney did not respond to a request for comment.

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White House gives warning on climate

Regions. There have been storm surges in the Northeast and both wildfires and water shortages in the Southwest.



Storm surges from Hurricane Sandy caused widespread flooding along coastal areas of New York. / BILLY BECERRA, METRO

Scientists

240

More than 240 scientists contributed to the report.

The Obama administration on Tuesday released an updated report on how climate change requires urgent action to counter impacts that touch every corner of the country, from oyster growers in Washington state to maple syrup producers in Vermont.

"Climate change, once considered an issue for a distant future, has moved firmly into the present," the report said.

Some environmental and public health groups hailed the National Climate Assessment as a possible "game changer" for efforts to address climate

change, in part because it makes the impact less abstract to many Americans.

"It will help put their own experiences in context, and we think that is important in generating interest and action on the issue," said Lyndsay Moseley, director of the American

Lung Association's Healthy Air campaign.

The extensive report detailed how consequences of climate change are hitting on several fronts, including health, infrastructure, water supply, agriculture and especially in more frequent severe weather such as floods and droughts.

John Podesta, an adviser to President Barack Obama, said cabinet members will fan out across the country in coming weeks to discuss the report.

REUTERS

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Armed pro-Russian militants take position in the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk. / GETTY IMAGES

Ukraine slides toward war

Deadly fighting. The surge in violence has changed the tone of international diplomacy.

Both sides have been burying their dead as Ukraine slides further toward war, with supporters of Russia

and of a united Ukraine accusing each other of tearing the country apart.

Tuesday morning was quieter than past days in eastern and southern Ukraine, but the deadliest week since the separatist uprising began has transformed the conflict, hardening positions and leaving little room for peace.

At the Holy Trinity

Church, seven priests led mourners in prayer for a woman killed by large-caliber bullets, which the townspeople believe were fired by Ukrainian troops.

"They shoot at us. Why? Because we don't want to live with fascists?" asked 58-year-old passport photographer Sergei Fomin-sky, standing with his wife among the mourners.

A pro-Ukrainian activist, Andrey Biryukov, 35, was killed during a day that began with hundreds of pro-Russian sympathizers armed with axes, chains and guns attacking a Ukrainian march, and ended later that night with the pro-Russians barricaded inside a building that was set on fire, killing dozens. **REUTERS**

New laws

Putin tightens curbs on protestors

While all eyes are turned to Ukraine, President Vladimir Putin has quietly enacted laws which opponents say will strengthen his hand in a battle against dissent in Russia.

Putin signed laws conceiving tougher punishment for people involved in riots and imposing life sentences for various "terrorist" crimes. He also approved tighter controls on bloggers, some of whom have emerged as opposition leaders and have used the Internet to criticize Putin.

The moves underline Kremlin concern that the unrest in Ukraine might encourage protests in Russia, even though the annexation of the Crimea peninsula from Ukraine has helped push Putin's ratings to their highest level since late 2010. **REUTERS**

US reports

Russian planes flew near California, Guam

The head of air forces in the Pacific said on Monday that Russia's intervention in Ukraine had been accompanied by a significant increase in Russian air activity in the Asia-Pacific region in a show of strength and to gather intelligence.

General Herbert "Hawk" Carlisle said the activity had included Russian flights to the coast of California, and around the Pacific island of Guam.

Carlisle said the number of long-range Russian patrols around the Japanese islands and Korea had

Speaking at Washington's Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank, Carlisle showed a slide of a F-15 fighter jet intercepting a Russian "Bear" aircraft over Guam. **REUTERS**

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Drug makers. Bayer wins auction for Merck's \$14B consumer unit

Germany's Bayer AG has trumped rival bidders for Merck & Co.'s consumer care business in a \$14.2 billion deal, adding to a string of major crossborder deals in the health-care industry.

"This acquisition marks a major milestone on our path toward global leadership in the attractive non-prescription medicines business," Bayer's chief executive, Marijn Dekkers, said in a statement on Tuesday.

Merck, which is selling non-prescription brands,



said it expects after-tax proceeds of between \$8 billion and \$9 billion from the sale, which is expected to close in the second half of 2014.

The transaction, the

largest in the German health-care industry since Bayer bought rival Schering for \$24 billion in 2006, will make Bayer the world's second-biggest consumer health-care company, as it seeks to make better use of its distribution network and sales force.

"We can take these products and market them more forcefully than Merck has been able to do so far," Dekkers said in a conference call with analysts. **REUTERS**

Social media

Twitter shares slump as stock lock-up expires

Shares of Twitter slumped 15 percent to fresh lows in a flurry of trading on Tuesday after the expiration of a six-month "lock-up" period allowed early investors and insiders to offload their stock for the first time.

Twitter's shares slid throughout Tuesday morning and touched \$33 on the New York Stock

Exchange, a new low since their trading debut on Nov. 7, 2013, at \$37. On a consolidated basis, 95 million shares had changed hands by afternoon trading — six times the average daily volume. **REUTERS**

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Swine swap

Genome scientist in deal to make humanized pig organs

Genome pioneer J. Craig Venter is teaming up with a unit of United Therapeutics to develop pig lungs that have been genetically altered to be compatible with humans, a feat that, if successful, could address the urgent need for transplant organs for people with end-stage lung disease.

Venter's privately held company Synthetic Genomics Inc. on Tuesday said it has entered a multiyear deal with United Therapeutics' Lung Biotechnology Inc. to develop the so-called humanized pig organs.

The venture is intended to advance United Therapeutics' efforts to develop replacement organs grown in genetically altered pigs.

Prior efforts to use animal organs in people



A future organ grower?
GETTY IMAGES

By the numbers

400K

About 400,000 people in the U.S. die each year from various forms of lung disease.

2K

Only 2,000 people are saved each year with a lung transplant.

in need of a transplant, known as xenotransplantation, have failed because of differences in the ge-

nome that caused organ rejection and blood clots.

"Our new collaboration with Synthetic Genomics is huge for accelerating our efforts to cure end-stage lung disease," Martine Rothblatt, chairman and chief executive officer of Silver Spring, Maryland-based United Therapeutics, said in a statement.

Humans, pigs and most other mammals share about 90 percent of the same genes. What Venter's team will do is determine which aspects of the pig genome need to be altered to make porcine lungs compatible with humans, avoiding the rejection response that occurs even in human-to-human transplants.

"We're going to start with generating a brand new super-accurate sequence of the pig genome, and then go through in detail and compare it to the human genome," Venter, the founder and chief executive of Synthetic Genomics Inc., said in a telephone interview. **REUTERS**



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Gunmen abduct eight more girls in Nigeria

Abduction.

This follows the kidnapping of more than 200 schoolgirls last month.

Suspected Boko Haram gunmen kidnapped eight girls from a village near one of the Islamists' strongholds in northeastern Nigeria overnight, police and residents said on Tuesday.

Lazarus Musa, a resident of the village of Warabe, told Reuters that armed men had opened fire during the raid.

"They were many, and all of them carried guns. They came in two vehicles



People shout slogans to protest the abduction of Chibok school girls during a rally pressing for the girls' release in Abuja. / GETTY IMAGES

painted in army color. They started shooting in our village," Musa said by telephone from the village in the hilly Gwoza area, Boko Haram's main base.

A police source, who asked not to be identified, said the girls were taken away on trucks, along with looted livestock and food.

Boko Haram leader

Abubakar Shekau threatened in a video released to the media to sell the girls abducted from a school on April 14 "on the market."

Kidnappings by the Islamists, who say they are fighting for an Islamic state, have shocked a country long inured to the violence around the northeast.

REUTERS

Political turmoil

Thai court likely to force out prime minister

Thailand's Constitutional Court is almost certain to rule against Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra on abuse of power charges on Wednesday, forcing her from office and raising the possibility of fresh mass protests by her supporters.

That could lead to confrontation with anti-government groups which have been protesting in Bangkok for six months in a bid to topple Yingluck. Those demonstrations disrupted a general election in February that she had been expected to win.

The crisis broadly pits Bangkok's middle class and royalist establishment against the mainly poor, rural supporters of Yingluck and her brother, ex-premier Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted by the military in 2006 and now lives in exile to avoid a jail term handed down in 2008 for abuse of power. **REUTERS**

Quoted

"I did not interfere in the decision process ... which should be for the benefit of the land."

Yingluck told the court

al Qaeda

Saudi Arabia foils terror cell plotting attack

Kuwait said on Tuesday it uncovered an al Qaeda-linked plan to bomb a U.S. Army camp and other "important facilities" in the OPEC oil exporting state.

"The state security has uncovered a terrorist network following al Qaeda, and includes six [Kuwaiti] citizens who have planned to carry out a plan to bomb Arifan Camp, the state security building and other important facilities," the ministry said.

REUTERS

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Stars. Worst-dressed at The Met's costume gala

The Metropolitan Museum of Art's annual Costume Institute gala took place on Monday night in New York City and proved to us yet again that all stars are beautiful. But sometimes, even the beautiful ones make missteps. Here are our picks for worst-dressed of the evening (you might be surprised with the list).

1 Anyone who has seen "The Wolf of Wall Street" knows that **Margot Robbie** cuts an incredible figure, but you wouldn't know it from this dress. **GETTY IMAGES**

2 Oh, **Sandra Lee**. Who is the cruel, cruel person who told you this was a good idea? What did Governor Cuomo say before you stepped out? **WIREIMAGE**

3 I was all in favor of this gown until **Sarah Jessica Parker** turned around and boom: Oscar de la Renta signature, right in your face. Logos are so gauche. **FILMMAGIC**

4 It would have been nice if **Katie Holmes** would have brushed her hair — and chosen a dress that didn't make her look like a mash-up of a Disney princess/drunken sailor's wife/Wild West prostitute. **FILMMAGIC**

5 Dear **Elizabeth Olsen**: Johnny Weir called and he wants his outfit back. **FILMMAGIC**

6 I see what you did, **Lupita Nyong'o**. You bet one of your friends that you could wear anything and still be named best-dressed of the night. Well, I'm not buying it. That's a pretty good Tinker Bell meets Tiger Lily interpretation, though. **GETTY IMAGES**
ANDREA PARK

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

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2

CULTURE



Twitter feed

Chloe Grace Moretz in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Chloe Grace Moretz could use some heels, Emma Bunton is freaking out about time, Kristin Chenoweth needs a nap and Justin Bieber is putting on a happy face.

@ChloeGMoretz: btw, i was 100% the shortest girl at the #MetGala

@EmmaBunton: It's my gorgeous little boys 3rd birthday, time is going too fast!

@KChenoweth: I'm so tired. Seriously.

@justinbieber: Smiling everyday.



Talking points

Paltrow and Martin hang out all the time

For a husband and wife who are "consciously uncoupling," Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin seem pretty cool about hanging out together,

according to People magazine. Last month, they attended Robert Downey Jr.'s star-studded birthday party together and joined forces for son Moses' 8th birthday — and this was after heading to the Bahamas for a family vacation immediately following

the announcement they were splitting up. And now they've been spotted together again during a group dinner at Il Ristorante de Giorgio Baldi in Santa Monica, California, smiling and laughing as they departed the establishment post-dinner with friends.



This wasn't taken yesterday, but it could have been. / GETTY IMAGES

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More than just Spidey's girlfriend



Emma Stone returns to the role of Gwen Stacy in the latest "Spider-Man" entry. / GETTY IMAGES

Interview. Emma Stone says that Gwen Stacy is an independent woman in the new "Spider-Man."

It's early (or early-ish), and Emma Stone is not really awake. Even after caffeinated reinforcements are brought in, she apologizes for her answers. Of course, this in itself is part of how she charms her way through the press duties for "The Amazing Spider-Man 2," the sequel to the 2012 reboot, in which she again plays Spidey's gal pal Gwen Stacy.

Then again, there's stuff to talk about; this sequel isn't simply a repeat of the first. "There's more solidity to Gwen in this movie," Stone says. "I think because of her father dying in the first, she's much clearer and more mature. She knows she wants to go

to college, she knows what she wants to do with her life."

Her obstacle is Andrew Garfield's Peter Parker, who isn't sure they can date but is reluctant to let her go. Stacy won't let him drag her down. "She's not staying behind, waiting to see what her boyfriend decides. She's making her own decisions," she says. "She's following her destiny, whether it's Peter's destiny or not, and hoping he can figure out how to work into that. She's a role model for modern women; she's making her way in the world and not waiting around for a guy."

Gwen and Peter — and also Stone and Garfield — still have repartee, which exists in part because the

writers this time knew how the off-screen couple played off each other. But Gwen is still her own person, and Stone sought to learn more about her business. Gwen's a budding scientist, which drove Stone — who, like many who get into acting in their teens, holds a GED — to sit in on classes at Columbia. "[The professor] explained to me how the brain works. I took notes and it was interesting, but I realize I didn't fully understand it."

The film was also shot entirely — not just partially, like the first — in New York City. "It feels like this is meant to be, this is home. There are people who come from far and wide to see Spider-Man and meet him in the streets."

On the set

Crazy like a Foxx

The shoot also allowed Stone to work with comedian and actor Jamie Foxx who, despite playing tortured villain Electro, remained himself.

"He's good at everything. He makes everybody laugh, then he's DJing then he's dancing, doing stand-up," she says of his on-set behavior.

She even got a surprise when they went on The Foxxhole, the actor's Sirius station. "We went to do a cast interview, and all of a sudden it was Jamie asking us questions on his radio station."

Quoted

"She's making her own decisions. ... She's a role model for modern women: She's making her way in the world and not waiting around for a guy." Stone, on her character Gwen Stacy



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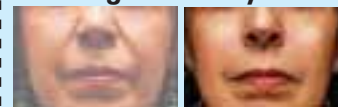
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'I don't think we're like that anymore'

Scottish post-rock band Mogwai aren't much for words, but the instrumental post-rockers' "Rave Tapes," released in January, includes a spoken-word passage alleging that in Led Zeppelin's lyrics are satanic ciphers. It's a rerecorded but earnest warning from a Christian broadcast, whose announcer overlooked that singer Robert Plant was more into hobbits and hedgerows than Satan.

"Yeah, he's actually singing about hobbits," multi-instrumentalist John Cummings says, laughing. "There's plenty in Led Zeppelin's music that's ridiculous; you don't have to make up stuff."

Why sample something about Led Zep's penchant for the dark side at all? Well, once upon a time, Mogwai were known as bad boys of rock, mostly for the decibel-pushing volume of the band's in-



Mogwai play Terminal 5 (610 W 56th St.) Friday. For more info, visit www.ticketmaster.com. / STEVE GULLICK

strumental epics, which had fans and critics alike fearing for their eardrums.

"We were young once," Cummings says, not without irony. "[Back then] we just enjoyed what seemed like a lot of free beer. I don't think we're like that anymore. On the whole, we were just lovable scamps."

Over eight albums, Mogwai has preferred to make statements solely

with their music rather than with, well, statements, i.e., lyrics. But considering they're scoring the European TV series "Les Revenants" and the "Zidane" biopic, lyrics or no lyrics, Mogwai have clearly grown up into dignified, post-rock elder statesmen.

"We're as much the last men standing as anything else. We just managed to

Rock democracy. How Mogwai transitioned from a "here for the beer" band to post-rock statesmen.

See more at www.metro.us

keep going," Cummings says. "It seems strange that not more bands manage it. Hopefully, over time, you get to know how not to annoy other people as much as they get to know how not to annoy you. It's not that difficult to put up with each other, really."



LINDA LABAN
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The weekly **yelp**

We're aware that Cinco de Mayo happened two days ago, but really: Do you need an excuse to sip these Mexican-inspired libations? Of course not. Raise a glass with these tasty Manhattan margaritas.

Calexico

I ordered their Jalapeno Mint Margarita (jalapeno infused exotic silver, Combier, mint, jalapeno, lime, agave). I really loved this drink; it had a really great kick of heat, but also refreshing from the sweetness of the agave.

KATHERINE S.

Barrio Chino

My friend has sworn that the jalapeno margaritas here are the best he's ever had and he is right. I love spicy things and have had many jalapeno margaritas before, and this one was definitely the best. SUNNY S.

Diablo Royale

Four stars alone for their tasty concoction called the Diablo Ricky. It's frozen margarita (1/3) and beer (2/3). Delicious! They go down very smoothly so be careful. You might be on your ass after the third or fourth.

BILL T.

El Centro

Their margaritas were not only completely delicious but huge. Absolutely huge with quite a few flavors. We all ordered different flavors and everyone was happy with their various decisions — to the point of shamelessly ordering another round.

JESS P.

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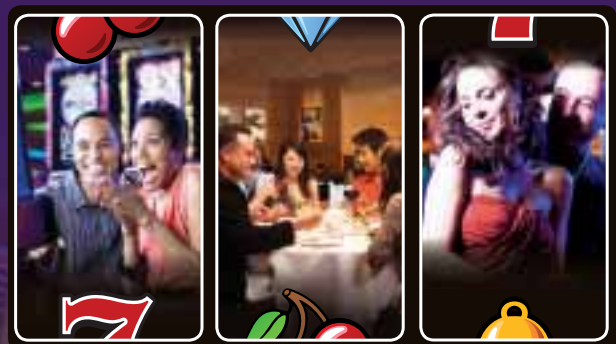
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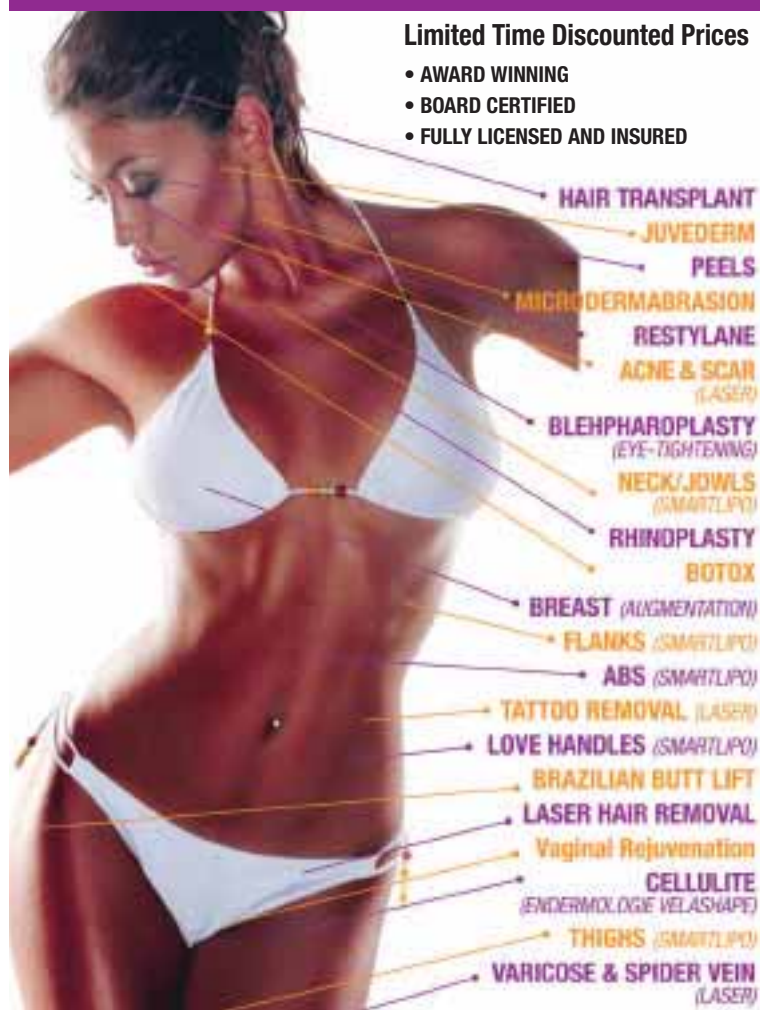
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Stella (Daisy Hughes), left, is 16. But she's dating nearly-40 Jake (Alan Cox) in "Playing with Grown Ups." / CAROL ROSEGG

'Playing' grows up, gets serious

Theater. "Playing with Grown Ups" has its points, but it's still rough around the edges.

Out of the mouths of babes, as they say. Playwright Hannah Patterson appears to agree. In her shrewd "Playing with Grown Ups" (which opened last night at 59E59), babes' mouths rule.

The first babe is newborn Lily, who's pushed mother Joanna (Trudi Jackson) to a postpartum point somewhere between depression and psychosis. The second is Stella (Daisy Hughes), a 16-year-old who's dating Jake (Alan Cox), an academic pushing

40. The only character to address the audience, Stella says that life is simple and adults unnecessarily complicate it. It's hard to say whether the play supports or disproves her thesis.

Completing the cast is Mark Rice-Oxley as Robert, who claims to be modern but relies on his wife to straighten up and cook for the guests he's

invited over. Two issues take center stage: Stella's age and Joanna's disinclination for motherhood. Eventually, the tinderbox explodes, and it's hard to know who's left standing: Jake seems to have made a timely escape; Stella may be bruised, but can take it; Joanna acts more like Medea than ever; and Robert might finally get his turn at housework.

Sharp and engaging, "Grown Ups" is reminiscent of Edward Albee's "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" Its biggest shortcoming is Joanna: It's hard to sympathize when she's such a harriidan.

MICHAEL BRACKEN
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Priciest

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The most expensive property to come onto the market this week is a condo located at 432 Park Ave. in Midtown.

Marketed by Douglas Elliman, this 8,055-square-foot full-floor penthouse features a private elevator entrance, panoramic Central Park views and a library.



Cheapest

\$279.5K

The least expensive property to hit the market this week is a co-op at 330 E. 83rd St. in Yorkville.

Marketed by Halstead Property, this pre-war studio features hardwood floors, an updated kitchen, two double closets, a part-time doorman and a live-in super.

StreetEasy.com is a New York-based real estate information portal that aggregates the most comprehensive set of sale and rental listings along with other useful info.



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Cubed

Sunny sips

What to serve al fresco this summer? When we'd rather mingle outside than muddle in the kitchen, we're loving Sauza's new ready-to-pour sparkling margaritas (www.sauza-tequila.com). The only thing we'd add: Kikkerland's reusable anchor ice cubes (**\$5 for 6, www.kikkerland.com**).

What can we say: We love a bar cart. West Elm's outdoor-friendly one is made from responsibly harvested tropical hardwoods and finished with a beachy driftwood stain. **\$679, www.westelm.com**



By the numbers

94.2%

According to a new study by the American Society of Landscape Architects, lighting is high on the list of outdoor space improvements for 2014, with 94.2 percent of respondents rating upgrades as very in-demand. Also trending are eco-friendly design elements, including native plants, water-saving drip irrigation and rain-water harvesting systems.



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New Yorkers' tips for tiny apartments

Studio. Urbanites share their tricks for maximizing space.

Living in a big city often means living in a small apartment. And while it would be great to come home to a house of zen, when space is scarce, living quarters are usually more cluttered than the chaotic sidewalks outside. But downsizing doesn't have to be a dirty word. Metro spoke with real New Yorkers to find out their tips and tricks for making the most of a small space.

Throw out your furniture

Linda Wang, a 21-year-old NYU graduate, shares a 300-square-foot studio with two other roommates in East Village.

"The most challenging part is finding privacy, especially when sharing a studio," she says.

So how do three girls sharing one studio make it work? They minimized furniture. The 300-square-foot studio contains only the essentials: a bunk bed, a futon, a portable closet and a table.

"We also store things in boxes and crates and put them in the closet or under the bed. We utilize shelf space and the doors," Wang adds. The room-

Don't let that wall go to waste! Open up floor space by getting creative with shelves. / GETTY IMAGES

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*Monthly rent includes heat, hot water and gas for cooking. Seniors will be required to meet income guidelines and additional selection criteria to qualify. Income guidelines are subject to change. One application per household.

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A bunk bed is essential if you're packing three people into a studio. / THINKSTOCK

Close quarters

Define your space

Arlene Markowski moved with her husband and two kids from a large house in Los Angeles to a 1,100-square-foot apartment in Chelsea with three bedrooms, two bathrooms, an all-purpose room and very little hallway space. The challenge for this family was defining separate spaces. "The living room and dining room are one space," Markowski says. "I defined [them] using lighting, carpeting and other furniture. The same is true for the bedroom — I also got rid of the end tables and instead put two small desks and shelving on either side of the bed to create personal study space."

The apartment also includes a couch that opens into a bed and a coffee table that transforms into a desk.

The family eliminates clutter with a "no hoarding policy," says Markowski. Old things have to be recycled, donated or thrown out before new things can come in.

"Honestly, we love living in a small space. I feel like it brings us closer," she says. "A small space gives us lots of chances to communicate, to build memories. I feel like our family has become closer, more expressive and overall more appreciative of one another. Oh, and did I say how grateful I am to not have more space to clean?"

mates hang hooks over both sides of their doors — the closet door holds purses on one side and a shoe rack on the other, and the bathroom door is adorned with towels and a long mirror.

"When we had more furniture in here, I had to sacrifice accessibility to everything — if one person was studying at the table, they had to get up and move so I could open the fridge," Wang says. "With less furniture, we don't have that problem anymore."

Stack up

Jacob Ardrone, a linebacker at Columbia University, shares a 160-square-foot dorm room with Nikolas Padilla, who plays defense

tackle for the team. The growing boys rearranged their room several times to keep from being space-starved, and they found that utilizing wall space was the solution.

"We raised our beds up so we could fit dressers beneath them. We put in more shelves to add space for our TV and many fans. Basically we stacked shelves on top of shelves," Ardrone says.

There was a downside, though. "The hardest thing to sacrifice was a huge couch and a full-sized fridge," he says. For these college football players, their beds serve as couches and the Columbia campus is their kitchen.

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Origins. New program lets you trace back ancestry 1,000 years

Humanity has long wondered where we come from. Sure, we've all seen the first 40 minutes of "2001: A Space Odyssey." However, it's all conjecture. There is no way to actually know, right? Well, hold onto your cave-man clubs, now there is — sort of.

Scientists at the University of Sheffield in the U.K. have developed a new kind of GPS — Geographic Population Structure — that leads you to where your ancestors originally hail from. The technique cross-references your DNA



TRACE LIFE'S HISTORY WITH THE NEW GEOGRAPHIC POPULATION STRUCTURE. / THINKSTOCK

with world population over time to ascertain where, down to the village, your forebears originated. The technology is only accurate to the first 1,000 years though. Maybe by 3014 we'll be able to go back further. **LAWRENCE BONK**

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If you're lucky, the hardest thing you'll ever have to do is quit smoking. Not everyone realizes this. There's a terrible stigma that comes with cigarettes, one so severe that those who pass laws — raising taxes on them, outlawing them from public spaces, even banning e-cigarettes — don't seem like they've ever had to deal with a serious and crippling nicotine addiction. On top of that, everyone acting like a jerk about it really only makes you want to have a cigarette.

But apps care. Apps will help you. Granted,



Quit It tracks how long you've been cigarette-free. / PROVIDED

apps aren't the same as nicotine gum, patches or lozenges, which help you wean yourself slowly off of a habit that dominates your every waking moment. (Apps also aren't cigarettes — delicious, wonderful, soothing cigarettes.) But two apps help build up your willpower and your mind (and eventually your body, which will be happy you've given up the smoke).

Of course, both are heavy on the guilt trips.



Get overly nice motivational slogans with Kwit. / PROVIDED

Quit It is a sparse, if not bare bones, program that measures your returning health as well as the money you're saving from the moment you've given up smoking. In fact, it measures this in seconds, with a counter at the top. It not only tracks the tar that's no longer inside you; it has charts that track your blood pressure returning to normal

and your declining risk of a sudden heart attack and those four wonderful words, "cancer of the mouth," as well as your reviving circulation.

Quit It can be pretty heavy, especially if you have an unhealthy fear of death. Kwit is gentler, or at least more passive-aggressive. It has less information than Quit It — which isn't entirely scientific, since you log in without doing a physical — but it's more stylish, treating it like a game and giving you a notice when you've made specific achievements (like having your heart rate return to normal). It also shoots out motivational slogans at your command, which are almost positive to a fault.



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Recipe

Creamy Coleslaw

What's a BBQ without coleslaw? Skip store-bought versions drenched with fattening mayo and sugar (290 calories per cup) and try my lighter recipe instead.

Grab a large bowl and toss in 4 cups shredded cabbage, 2 cups shredded carrots, ½ cup chopped green onions, ¼ cup dried cranberries, ¼ cup low-fat mayonnaise, 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar, 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard, ½ teaspoon kosher salt



Creamy Coleslaw

and black pepper to taste. Easy peasy, just 50 calories per cup and oh-so-delicious!

Recipe

Better Baked Beans

Often, you're looking at 300+ calories per half cup of canned or homemade baked beans. These are 130 calories.

Stir together two 15-ounce cans of navy beans (drained and rinsed), a finely diced onion (pre-sautéed in oil spray), a cup of low-sugar BBQ sauce (look for 15 calories or less per tablespoon) and a tablespoon of balsamic vinegar. Pour the mix into



Better Baked Beans

an oven-safe dish and bake uncovered for an hour in a 325-degree oven until the sauce is thick.

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SLIM DOWN YOUR BARBECUE

May is National Barbecue Month, and while meaty main dishes like ham-burgers and steak often get most of the cookout attention, I'm paying homage to my favorite low-fat sides. They may look small and inconsequential, but in my book, sensational sides like tangy baked beans and creamy coleslaw can truly make or break an outdoor grilling fiesta. Here, I've

shared my slimmed-down versions of classic cook-out trimmings that just may steal the show. Give them a try!

For more slimming recipes, visit JoyBauer.com and follow Joy on Twitter (@joybauer), Facebook ([facebook.com/JoyLBauer](https://www.facebook.com/JoyLBauer)) and Pinterest ([pinterest.com/joybauerhealth](https://www.pinterest.com/joybauerhealth)).

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author.

Recipe

Potato Salad Bites

That "usual" potato salad lurking at your family BBQ is undoubtedly loaded with fattening mayo and calories (about 420 calories per cup). Instead, give my perfectly portioned Potato Salad Bites a try. Two "bites" will run you just 50 calories, so feel free to go

back for seconds and thirds.

Slice 13 small red potatoes in half, mist liberally with oil spray and season with ½ teaspoon kosher salt and black pepper to taste. Transfer into an oven-safe baking dish and line them up in a single layer before baking at 450 degrees for about 25 minutes. Allow potatoes to cool

Potato Salad Bites
ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

for at least 40 minutes or store in the fridge to keep chilled until you're ready to serve. In the meantime, make a lemon dill yogurt topping by mixing ½ cup plain fat-free Greek yogurt, 1 tablespoon lemon juice and ½ teaspoon dried dill. Right before it's cook-out time, top each potato slice with a dollop of lemon dill dressing. It's so good!

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It's not too late to combat your allergies



Tip

Don't stress

"Stress is bad for the immune system. The stronger the immune system, the more long-term allergies lessen," Dattwyler says.

The American Lung Association "State of the Air 2014" report found the New York metro area's annual particle pollution levels tied for 13th most-polluted area nationwide in terms of year-round particle pollution. The area stretches beyond New York City proper, encompassing 35 counties over four states. / ZONAR

Achoo! Read our tips for relief.

The health buzz-term of the season — the pollen vortex — is a result of the high number of tree pollens being released after their long winter of rest. But Dr. Raymond Dattwyler, New York Medical College's Chief of Clinical Immunology, Allergy and Rheumatology, thinks that media and drug companies are just instilling fear. "It's meaningless," he says, dismissing the notion of

a pollen vortex. "Every spring there are articles saying this will be the worst season ever. It's always sensationalized. March was cold, so pollen counts were low. They got higher at the end of April. They were high but not extraordinary."

However, the doctor says that the overall incidence of allergies is growing, which means the incidence of spring allergies is growing with it. Therefore, more people will be suffering symptoms. Here are his tips for dealing with yours.

Meds

New hope

Merck has two newly FDA-approved sublingual (taken under the tongue) drugs: Ragwitek, for fall's ragweed pollen allergies (August to November), and Grastek, for grass pollen allergies, which occur later in summer. Treatment for both begins at least 12 weeks before the expected onset of the season. Similar spring allergy vaccines are useful, says Dattwyler.

"It makes allergy sufferers less reactive, less sensitive. But it takes time to work and it's already too late for this season."

are needed. "Your doctor can help with a prescription for a steroid nasal spray," Dattwyler says.

Cut down on antibiotics

"We're changing our natural body flora and that makes you more allergic. There is too much use of antibacterial soaps and too many antibiotics prescribed," the doctor says.

Use a neti pot

"Rinsing out the nose with salt water can lessen the pollen and lower your risk," he says.

LINDA CLARKE
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Trend. Sweatin' to the oldies? Not here.

If your inner dancing queen wants to get out and party, she has plenty of high-energy options these days. Studios are turning their spaces into clublike scenes that inspire participants to break a sweat to the beat, no dance background required.

One could argue that the dance-cardio craze started with SoulCycle, whose party-on-a-bike atmosphere revolutionized what it means to go to a spin class. When the lights go down, the beat gets thumping, and dancing in your seat is encouraged. By the time riders leave, everyone's got a sweaty high.

But now, no bike is necessary to get the club feel. In fact, no equipment is needed at all.

"I believe dance-cardio has really taken off because it's a full-body work-

out and doesn't require any equipment — just you and some kick-ass tunes," says celeb trainer Simone De La Rue, the creator of Body by Simone classes and author of "Body by Simone."

Stars including Kelly Ripa and Shakira have sculpted their bodies in dance-cardio classes. Anna Kaiser, who has worked with the aforementioned stars and runs her own studio, thinks its popularity is due to the fact that classes are "just plain fun."

"It doesn't feel like you're working out, yet you are working your body on all planes of motion and getting fantastic cardio," Kaiser says. "Once people try it, they realize they never want to run on a treadmill again — ever."

And although you might not feel your hottest grunting during a squat, you might feel sexy



Anna Kaiser leads a class at her studio, AKT In Motion (244 E. 84th St., 212-858-0305). / ELIZABETH HERMAN

shaking your thang like you would on the dance floor. Sadie Kurzban, the 24-year-old who founded ((305)) Fitness during her college years at Brown, is confident you will — her class's slogan is "Make sweat sexy."

"Many people are intimidated by dance, but to dance and celebrate music

is to be human," she says. "Exercise should not be torture. It's a way to express ourselves in a way we might not do in our everyday lives. You can be anyone you want to be in that moment."



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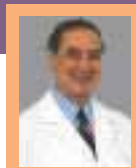
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Horoscope

Taurus | April 21-May 21. Someone will be overly sensitive. Don't waste time on a no-win situation. Move on to more valuable projects.

Gemini | May 22-June 20. You will be in a celebratory mood today. Get out and party, or find other ways to share your happiness.

Cancer | June 21-July 22. Finish any incomplete paperwork and tie up loose ends regarding investments, health issues or legal matters. The less you leave to chance, the better you will feel about the future.

Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. It's a good day to take part in networking functions and mingle with your peers. You will make new allies.

Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. You may be inundated with conflicting information. If someone is pressuring you, back away and take time to think things over.

Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Love and romance will put a smile on your face. Plan a little surprise for someone you enjoy spending time with. Your kind gesture will pay off.

Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. A family member may not be interested in your plans. Give him or her space, and carry on with your agenda.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. A seminar, lecture or special-interest group will provide the information and stimulation you desire. Travel to an unfamiliar destination.

Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20. Before making a financial decision, consult with the people who will be affected by the choice you make.

Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18. You will be restless. Plan a day trip or learn something new that can enhance your professional future. Don't be afraid to share your feelings.

Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Get ready for a challenge. Proceed with creative plans that you've been considering. You'll get the backing you need.

Aries | March 21-April 20. Get back on course with your health. Start with a nutritional diet. If you feel good, you will excel.
BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Letters

The sand's getting hot, so don't bury your head in it

Re: 'Climate confusion' (Metro, May 2) I'm confused as to why there is still "climate confusion."

I just read the latest National Climate Assessment report, which was released today. There is undeniable evidence that the average temperature of the Earth continues to rise, resulting in, among other things, longer and drier droughts and more frequent and severe storms. People can pretend these problems don't exist, but doing so won't make the problems go away

— just like pretending terrorism and national debt don't exist won't make those two problems go away, either.

CARL HANSON, VIA EMAIL

Behold, the vampire Levine

Re: 'Levine looks like every platinum blond who ever lived' (Metro, May 6) Loved the article on Adam's hair — he almost looks like Tom Cruise in "Interview with a Vampire" — it is that high a creep factor!

RENEE VIENS, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Sudoku: Easy and hard

5	4			6				2
			2					4
				5		6		3
		1		3	4	7		
	2		9		7		5	
		8	1	2		9		
3		5		1				
	7				3			
2				9			6	7

4		8	6	7				
1							7	
7	6		5			9	3	4
	4							7
			2		6			
5							4	
3	7	4			8		6	1
	1							3
				1	4	7		8

How to play

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Crossword

Across

- 1 Not "pro"
- 5 Hazardous gas
- 10 Trunk cover
- 14 Ponce de —
- 15 Deep black
- 16 Ersatz butter
- 17 During
- 18 Singer Paula —
- 19 Elec. or gas
- 20 Like instant cocoa
- 22 Diva, maybe
- 24 Magna — laude
- 25 A Bobsey twin
- 26 Raised ridges
- 29 Ailurophobe's fear
- 32 — Marie of "Lovergirl"
- 36 Lotion additive
- 37 Riata
- 39 Twice DI
- 40 Stem cell guru (2 wds.)
- 43 Vane dir.
- 44 Heir's legacy
- 45 Almost never
- 46 Fixes a sock
- 48 Soyuz destination
- 49 Chile-Argentina border
- 50 Handy abbr.
- 52 Elev.
- 53 Yellow fruits
- 57 Washington river
- 61 Nonsense poet
- 62 Earthmover

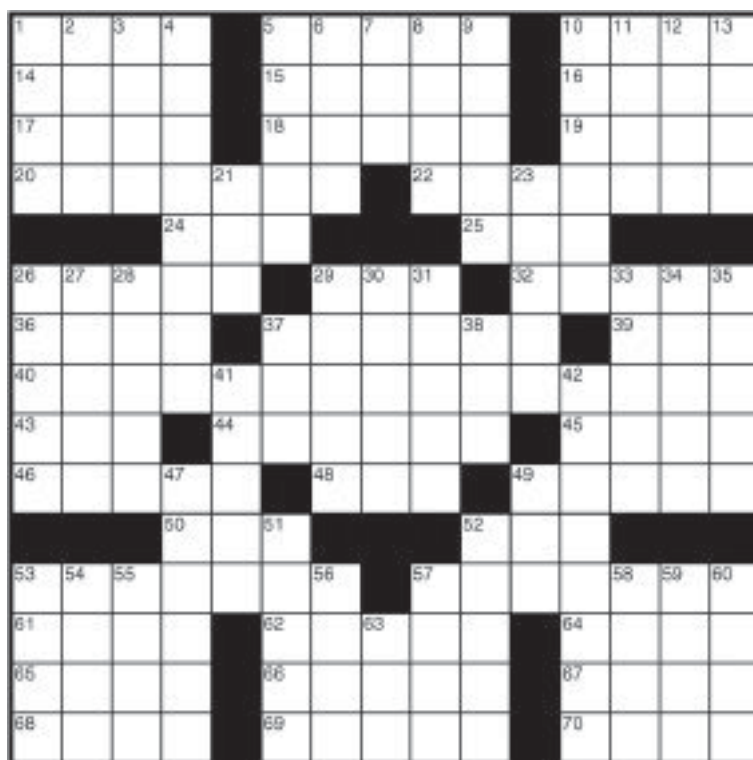
Down

- 64 Warrior princess
- 65 Handel contemporary
- 66 Throws off heat
- 67 Mosque figure
- 68 Nailed at a slant
- 69 Portable home
- 70 Sheepfold
- 1 Woeful cry
- 2 Verne captain
- 3 Elbow grease
- 4 New Hall-of-Famer
- 5 Domain
- 6 Xavier's ex
- 7 Cabinet div.
- 8 Unwelcome obligation
- 9 Drip-dry fabric
- 10 Ludlum's "The — Identity"
- 11 Banff's prov.
- 12 Harness part
- 13 Serbian folk dance
- 21 Route follower
- 23 Ms. LaBelle
- 26 Carried on, as a campaign
- 27 Ms. Verdugo
- 28 Solitude enjoyer
- 29 Cholla and nopal
- 30 Districts
- 31 Salon rinses
- 33 Do editing

- 34 Female relative
- 35 "Million" endings
- 37 Fleur-de- —
- 38 Mature
- 41 Snappish
- 42 Safe to have around
- 47 Got closer to
- 49 FBI man
- 51 Officer wannabe
- 52 Steed
- 53 — du jour
- 54 Flying prefix
- 55 Window part
- 56 "And then —!"
- 57 Fountain or Seeger
- 58 Office note
- 59 Future MD's course
- 60 Showed up
- 63 Energy

Yesterday's answer

E	B	A	Y	D	A	B	Y	E	L	P
L	O	S	E	R	D	E	M	O	I	R
B	A	S	T	E	A	N	L	P	A	P
A	R	T	I	S	T	R	Y	D	I	E
C	E	E	N	D	E	L	M			
C	A	P	F	U	L	R	E	E	L	S
A	R	L	E		W	O	R	S	E	N
R	A	R	E	R	E	S	I	G	E	R
B	R	U	C	E	E	S	P	A	C	E
R	O	A	S	T	W	I	S	D	O	M
A	F	O	A	S	H	L	O	C		
B	E	A	S	T	P	I	N	K	S	L
I	T	L	L	G	O	R	L	O	A	D
D	E	L	I	G	E	N	E	S		
E	D	A	M	N	O	D	T	E	S	T





Nets fall in Game 1

NBA playoffs.

After sweeping the Heat in the regular season, Brooklyn was dominated in the series opener.

The Nets admitted a regular season sweep of Miami meant very little when it came to the playoffs. They learned just how little in Game 1.

The Heat dominated the series opener Tuesday night in Miami, picking up a 107-86 win over Brooklyn.

Miami pulled away in the third quarter after leading just 46-43 at the half. Chris Bosh had 10 points in the quarter, while fellow Big 3 mates LeBron James and Dwyane Wade had solid contributions in the game as well.

James finished with 22 points on 10-for-15 shoot-



LeBron James drove to the basket at will regardless of the defender in Game 1. / GETTY IMAGES

By the numbers

52

The Heat outscored the Nets 52-28 in the paint in Game 1. Though they were undersized, the Heat had no trouble driving the lane.

ing, while Wade chipped in with 14 points.

Ray Allen, the former teammate of Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce in Boston, was particularly lethal off the bench. The 38-year-old sharpshooter had 19 points on 4-of-7 shooting from behind the

arc. He had just 13 points in four games combined against Charlotte in the first round.

Game 2 is Thursday at 7 p.m. on TNT.



MARK OSBORNE
@MetroNYSports
mark.osborne@metro.us

What went wrong ...

1 The Big Absent

Kevin Garnett was a no-show in Game 1 after his best game in months against the Raptors in Game 7. He went scoreless for the first time in his postseason career and played just 16 minutes.

2 Benched

Besides some garbage-time points by Marcus Thornton, no one on the bench contributed anything for the Nets. On the other side, Ray Allen was a revelation in reserve.

3 Who plays D?

No one can stop LeBron James, but the Nets don't even have anyone who can limit him. The Nets tried everybody on him with awful results. He blew past Andray Blatche, outmuscled Shaun Livingston and made Paul Pierce look old.

MARK OSBORNE

3

SPORTS

Watch online



Find video and recap of last night Nets-Heat Game 1 at: Metro.us/sports.

Landslide leader

Durant wins first MVP

The debate between Kevin Durant and LeBron James for MVP wasn't a hard one in the end.

Durant won his first career MVP, earning 119

of 125 first-place votes. James, who won four of the past five seasons, took the other six.

Durant led the league with 32 points per game, and had 7.4 rebounds and a career-high 5.5 assists per game. **METRO**



DURANT FINISHED SECOND TO JAMES FOR MVP THREE TIMES.

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TOM SAVAGE

The former Rutgers and Pittsburgh quarterback has taken a long road to where he is now — among the most intriguing QB prospects in Thursday's 2014 NFL Draft.

MOVING PAST THE MOCKS

It's been a long journey for Tom Savage, the former Philadelphia prep football star at Cardinal O'Hara who made the college football world take notice as a freshman quarterback at Rutgers in 2009.

Two transfers later, he ended up at Pitt. Now he's trying to make his case to be drafted in Thursday's NFL draft.

It seems that despite the five years and three programs to get here, this long, strange journey

to the NFL has made you a more resilient person.

The whole process definitely did. The process at Rutgers definitely humbled me. I'm happy I went through it [transferring] at a young age. You make mistakes when you're younger. But I came through it a better person and a more humble leader.

Heading into this past season at Pitt, your final year of NCAA eligibility, there must have been enormous pressure. It was your last chance to make an impression on NFL scouts.

I didn't really put it in that context. I was happy to be with the team again and finish off my career with a bunch of guys. I've been through that process where I didn't have a team. You ask any former player who used to play and doesn't play anymore, [and] they will say they miss the guys.

Measuring up

Savage turned 24 last month, so he's not as young as some other players in the draft. But he's getting good buzz.

- ESPN's Todd McShay has him ranked as the No. 4 QB in the draft.
- Draft guru Mel Kiper Jr. has him going in about the third round of the draft.



SAVAGE TRANSFERRED TO ARIZONA, BUT LEFT AFTER THEY HIRED RICH RODRIGUEZ.

Quoted

"I speak to Coach often. He helps me a lot. Obviously this whole draft process is a game of its own."

Tom Savage, quarterback, on his relationship with former Rutgers coach Greg Schiano

You're rising up the draft board. Some out there are calling you Tom Brady 2.0. You've surpassed some bigger names in many mock drafts.

I try not to pay attention to that stuff. You really don't know what to expect. As a competitor, you think you belong there, but I'm not going to pay attention to mock drafts and mock boards. It is all speculation.

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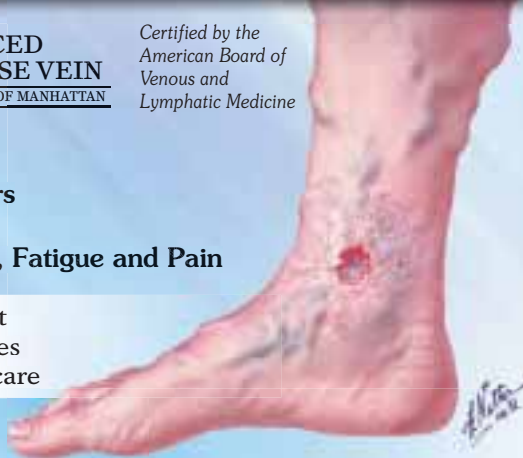
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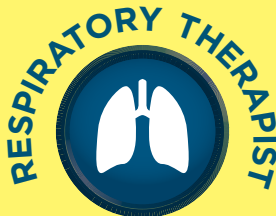
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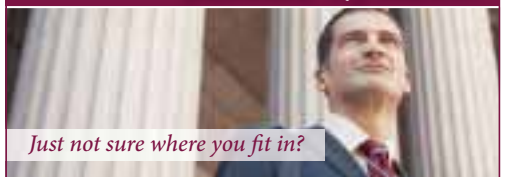
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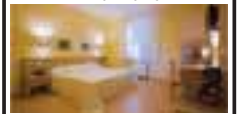
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